

-175-

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A process for preparing 4-[1-hydroxy-1-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]pyridine
 comprising the step of reacting lithiated veratrole with 4-pyridinecarboxaldehyde in the
 presence of a suitable aprotic solvent.
2. The process according to claim 1 wherein the aprotic solvent is toluene.
- 10 3. The process according to claim 1 wherein the aprotic solvent is a mixture of toluene
 and tetrahydrofuran.
4. The process according to claim 1 wherein the aprotic solvent is a mixture of toluene
15 and hexane.
5. A compound which is 4-[1-hydroxy-1-(2,3-dimethoxyphenyl)methyl]pyridine.

20